

**Reading through the years of St. Columba's**  
**125 Years of Reading**



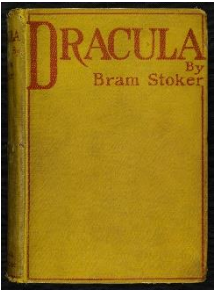
In the 125<sup>th</sup> year of St. Columba's, why not take the opportunity to read some of the texts published in important years of the school's history?

There's something for everyone.

Many thanks to Mr Smith's SII class for their fantastic research in compiling this list.  
We hope you enjoy finding something new to read.

125 years ago - 1897

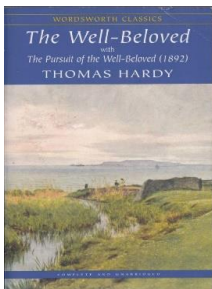
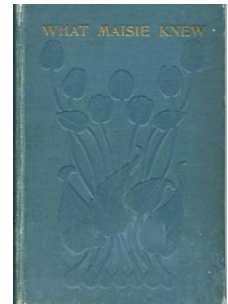
### Dracula by Bram Stoker



This novel contains the chilling tales of those that encountered the monster Dracula on his quest to emigrate from Transylvania to England, as he seeks to consume blood and spread his undead curse to the innocent. Worshipped by madmen and feared by the sane, this is the story of the Count Dracula. Experience the myth that has brought fear to generations—the timeless tale about the beast with the face of a man

### What Maisie Knew by Henry James

What Maisie Knew (1897) represents one of James's finest reflections on the rites of passage from wonder to knowledge, and the question of their finality. The child of violently divorced parents, Maisie Farange opens her eyes on a distinctly modern world.



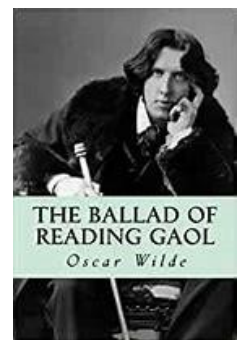
### The Well Beloved by Thomas Hardy

The novel tells the story of the sculptor Jocelyn Pierston's search for the ideal woman, through three generations of a Portland family.

### The Ballad of Reading Gaol by Oscar Wilde

This is a 109-stanza poem composed while Wilde was in exile in France; after his release from prison in Reading, Berkshire, England, where he had been incarcerated for two years.

Wilde's purpose was a critique of the cruelty of the system and the degrading nature of incarceration at the time, which undermined rather than promoted remorse and rehabilitation.



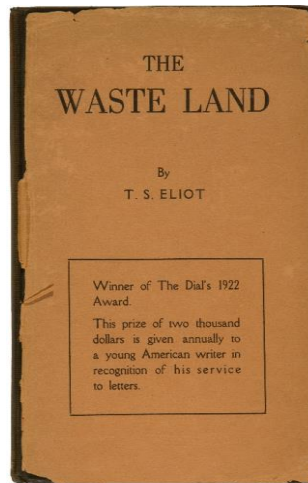
### A Nineteenth-century Miracle by Louis Zangwill



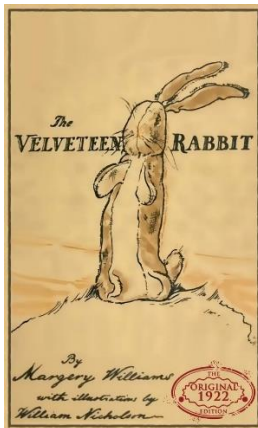
A rare gem. A tantalizing impossible crime story originally published in 1897. Now available for the first time in over a century... "Mr. Robert Ashfield is swept off the deck of a steamer into the sea, and his body is found at the same hour in a London studio, the cause of death being suffocation by salt water.

## 100 years ago – 1922

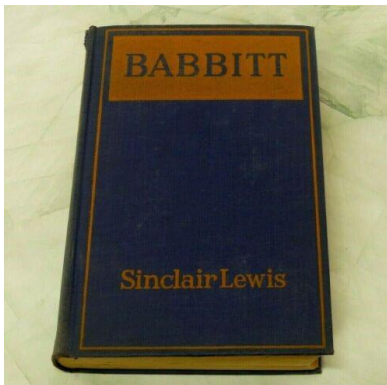
**The Waste Land** is a poem by T. S. Eliot, widely regarded as one of the most important poems of the 20th century and a central work of modernist poetry.



Imaged by Heritage Auctions, HA.com

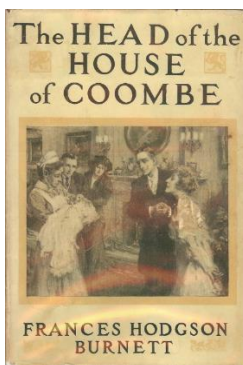
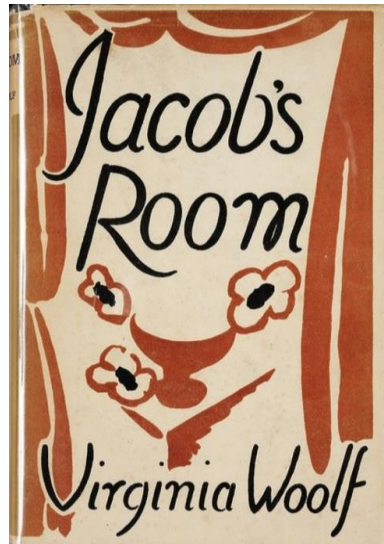


The Velveteen Rabbit is a British children's book written by Margery Williams and illustrated by William Nicholson. It chronicles the story of a stuffed rabbit's desire to become real through the love of his owner.



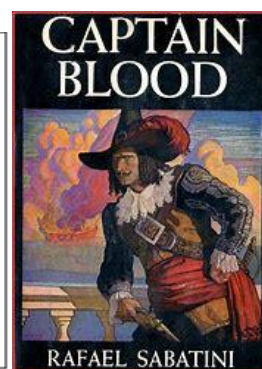
**Babbitt**, by Sinclair Lewis, is a novel about American culture and society that critiques the vacuity of middle class life and the social pressure toward conformity. The controversy provoked by Babbitt was influential in the decision to award the Nobel Prize in Literature to Lewis in 1930.

The novel centres, in a very ambiguous way, around the life story of the protagonist Jacob Flanders and is presented almost entirely through the impressions other characters have of Jacob. Thus, although it could be said that the book is primarily a character study and has little in the way of plot or background, the narrative is constructed with a void in place of the central character if, indeed, the novel can be said to have a 'protagonist' in conventional terms.



The Head of the House of Coombe is a 1922 novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The Head of the House of Coombe follows the relationships between a group of pre-World War One English nobles and commoners.

Captain Blood is an adventure novel by Rafael Sabatini, originally published in 1922. It concerns the sharp-witted Dr. Peter Blood, an Irish physician, who is convicted of treason in the aftermath of the Monmouth rebellion in 1685 and enslaved on the Caribbean Island of Barbados. He escapes and becomes a pirate.





75 years ago - 1947

### **The Plague by Albert Camus**

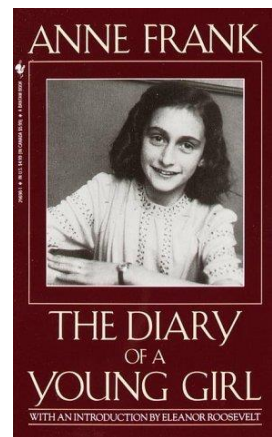


The Plague is a novel by Albert Camus. Published in 1947, it tells the story from the point of view of a narrator of a plague sweeping the French Algerian city of Oran.

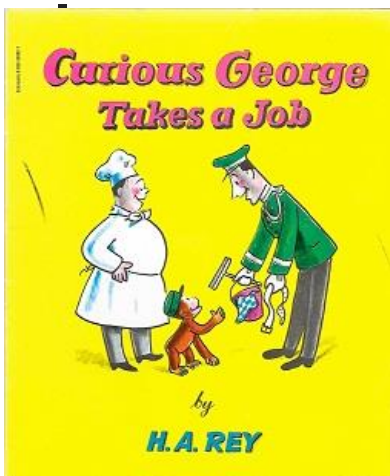
Camus used as source material the cholera epidemic that killed a large proportion of Oran's population in 1849, but situated the novel in the 1940s. The novel is an allegory for France under Nazi rule in World War II. Camus won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1957.

### **The diary of a young girl by Anne Frank**

*The Diary of a Young Girl* tells the story of Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who went into hiding with her family during the Second World War. It offers a remarkable portrait of a maturing young woman forced into an unbelievable situation but rising to the occasion. In her diary, Anne shares her thoughts and dreams, revealing a remarkable talent that was tragically taken from the world, along with millions of other lives during the Holocaust.



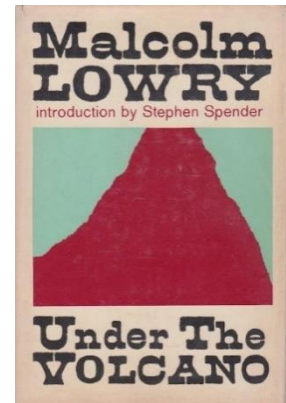
### **Curious George takes a Job by H.A. Rey**



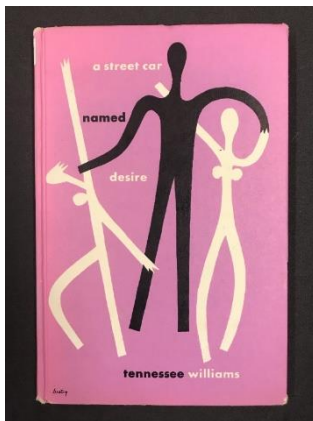
Another story about the curious monkey, and his adventures. He steals the keeper's key, makes his escape, and has all sorts of things happen to him in the city. After abandoning a dish washing job he took on skyscraper window cleaning, but what went on behind the windows proved his undoing. He's recaptured- and makes Hollywood. Nonsense with entertaining action text and pictures that tell their own story.

### **Under the Volcano by Malcolm Lowry**

Under the Volcano is a novel by English writer Malcolm Lowry published in 1947. The novel tells the story of Geoffrey Firmin, an alcoholic British consul in the Mexican city of Quauhnahuac, on the Day of the Dead in November 1939



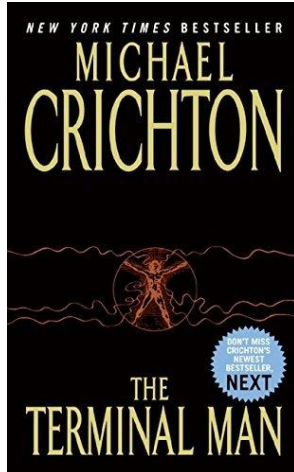
### **A StreetCar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams**



It is a very short list of 20th-century American plays that continue to have the same power and impact as when they first appeared— 57 years after its Broadway premiere, Tennessee Williams' *A Streetcar Named Desire* is one of those plays. The story famously recounts how the faded and promiscuous Blanche DuBois is pushed over the edge by her brutal brother-in-law, Stanley Kowalski. *Streetcar* launched the careers of Marlon Brando, Jessica Tandy, Kim Hunter, and Karl Malden, and solidified the position of Tennessee Williams as one of the most important young playwrights of his generation, as well as that of Elia Kazan as the greatest American stage director of the '40s and '50s.

50 years ago - 1972

### The Terminal Man by Michael Crichton

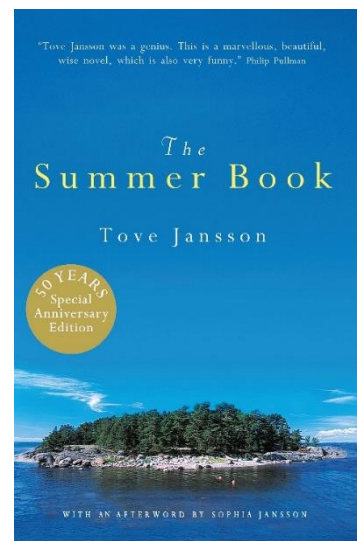


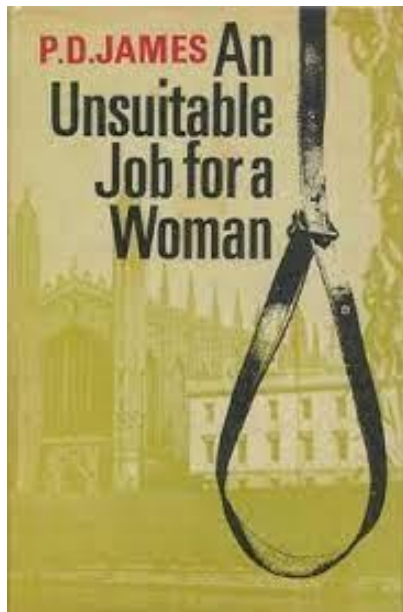
Harry Benson is prone to violent, uncontrollable seizures and is under police guard after attacking two people. Dr. Roger McPherson, head of the prestigious Neuropsychiatric Research Unit at University Hospital in Los Angeles, is convinced he can cure Benson through a procedure called Stage Three. During this highly specialized experimental surgery, electrodes will be placed in the patient's brain, sending monitored, soothing pulses to its pleasure canyons.

Though the operation is a success, there is an unforeseen development. Benson learns how to control the pulses and is increasing their frequency. He escapes -- a homicidal maniac loose in the city -- and nothing will stop his murderous rampages or impede his deadly agenda. . .

*The author of the wonderful Moomin stories tells an apparently simple story of a little girl and her grandmother as they pass the summer on a little island in the Baltic. They talk, they play, they explore, they come to understand things; it's almost a book about nothing, except that this nothing is filled with discoveries. It's a little miracle, and it gets even better each time I read it.*

~ Philip Pullman





### **An Unsuitable Job for a Women by PD James**

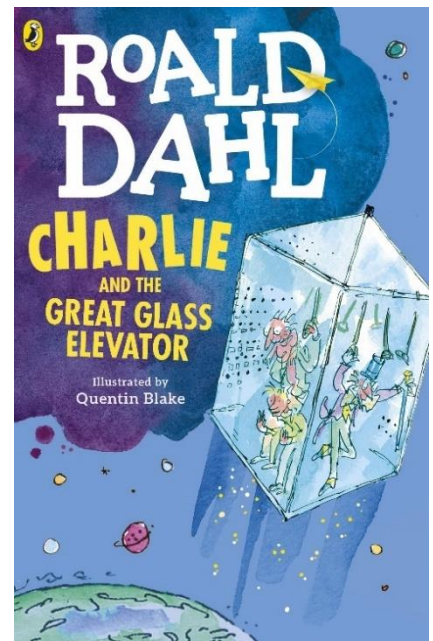
*Handsome Cambridge dropout Mark Callender died hanging by the neck with a faint trace of lipstick on his mouth. When the official verdict is suicide, his wealthy father hires fledgling private investigator Cordelia Gray to find out what led him to self-destruction. What she discovers instead is a twisting trail of secrets and sins, and the strong scent of murder. - Good Reads*

### **Charli and The Great Glass Elevator – Roald Dahl**

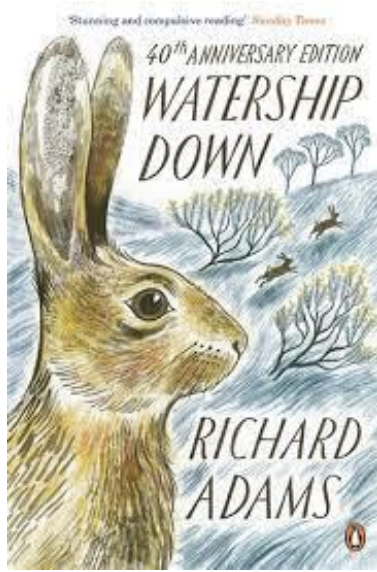
WHOOSH! Inside the Great Glass Elevator, Willy Wonka, Charlie Bucket and his family are cruising a thousand feet above the chocolate factory.

They can see the whole world below them, but they're not alone. The American Space Hotel has just launched. Lurking inside are the Vernicious Knids - the most brutal, vindictive murderous beasts in the universe.

So grab your gizzard! Hold your hats! Only Charlie and Willy Wonka can stop the Knids from destroying everything!





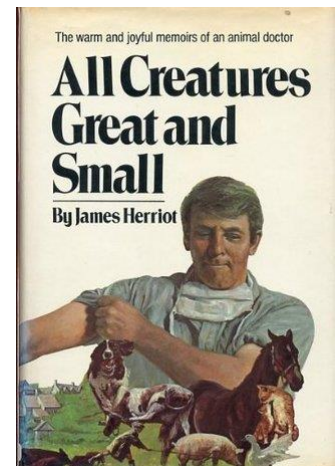


### **Watership Down by Richard Adams**

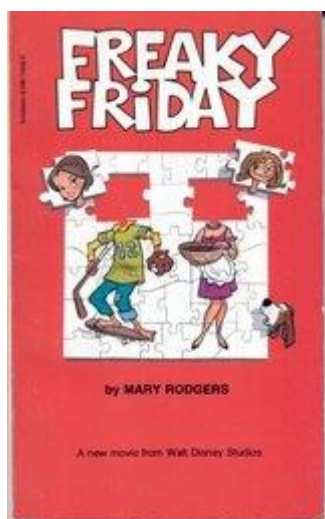
Set in England's Downs, a once idyllic rural landscape, this stirring tale of adventure, courage and survival follows a band of very special creatures on their flight from the intrusion of man and the certain destruction of their home. Led by a stouthearted pair of friends, they journey forth from their native Sandleford Warren through the harrowing trials posed by predators and adversaries, to a mysterious promised land and a more perfect society. -Good Reads

### **All creatures great and small- James Herriot**

In All Creatures Great and Small, we meet the young Herriot as he takes up his calling and discovers that the realities of veterinary practice in rural Yorkshire are very different from the sterile setting of veterinary school. Herriot discovers the wondrous variety and never-ending challenges of veterinary practice as his humour, compassion, and love of the animal world shine forth. - Good reads



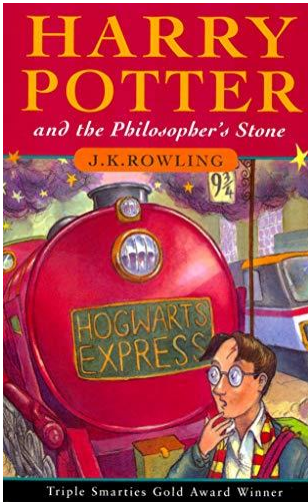
### **Freaky Friday – Mary Rodgers**



*Annabel thinks her mom has the best life. If she were a grown-up, she could do whatever she wanted! Then one morning she wakes up to find she's turned into her mother... and she soon discovers it's not as easy as it looks! - Goodreads*

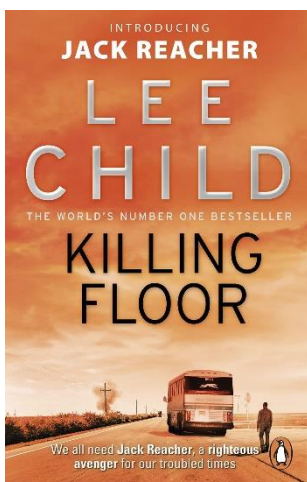
25 years ago - 1997

### Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone by J.K. Rowling

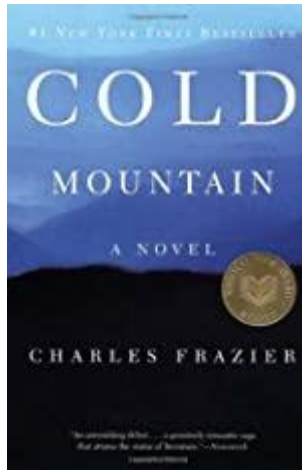


Harry Potter is an ordinary boy who lives in a cupboard under the stairs at his Aunt Petunia and Uncle Vernon's house, which he thinks is normal for someone like him whose parents have been killed in a 'car crash'. He is bullied by them and his spoilt cousin Dudley, and lives a very unremarkable life with only the odd hiccup (like his hair growing back overnight!) to cause him much to think about. That is until an owl turns up with a letter addressed to Harry and all hell breaks loose! He is literally rescued by a world where nothing is as it seems, and magic lessons are the order of the day. Read and find out how Harry discovers his true heritage at Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft, the reason behind his parents' mysterious death, who is out to kill him, and how he uncovers the most amazing secret of all time, the fabled Philosopher's Stone! All this and muggles too. Now, what are they?

Two fourth-grade boys who write comic books and love to pull pranks find themselves in big trouble. Mean Mr. Krupp, their principal, videotapes George and Harold setting up their stunts and threatens to expose them. The boys' luck changes when they send for a 3-D Hypno-Ring and hypnotize Krupp, turning him into Captain Underpants, their own superhero creation.



Ex-military policeman Jack Reacher is a drifter. He's just passing through Margrave, Georgia, and in less than an hour, he's arrested for murder. Not much of a welcome. All Jack knows is that he didn't kill anybody. At least not here. Not lately. But he doesn't stand a chance of convincing anyone. not in Margrave, Georgia. Not a chance in hell.

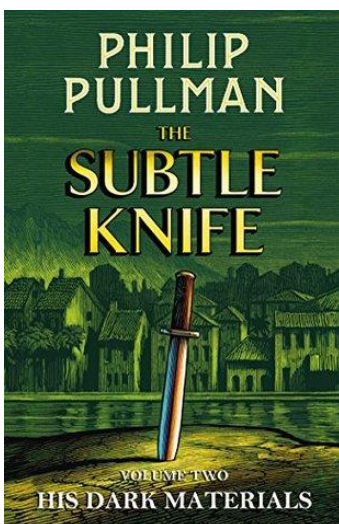
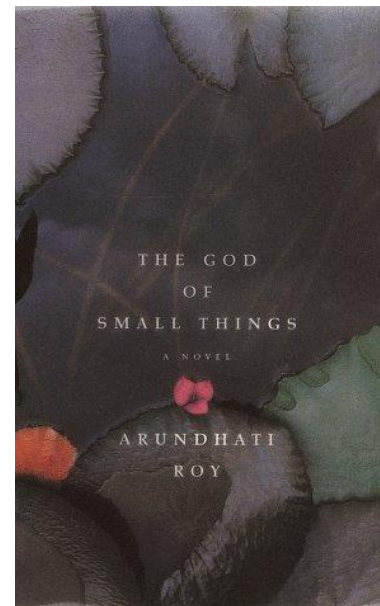


**Cold Mountain** is a novel about a soldier's perilous journey back to his beloved near the American Civil War's end. At once a love story & a harrowing account of one man's long walk home, Cold Mountain introduced a new talent in American literature.

**The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy**

The year is 1969. In the state of Kerala, on the southernmost tip of India, a skyblue Plymouth with chrome tailfins is stranded on the highway amid a Marxist workers' demonstration. Inside the car sit two-egg twins Rahel and Esthappen, and so begins their tale. . . .

The 1997 Booker Prize Winner



She had asked: What is he? A friend or an enemy?  
The alethiometer answered: He is a murderer.  
When she saw the answer, she relaxed at once.

Lyra finds herself in a shimmering, haunted otherworld – Cittàgazze, where soul-eating Spectres stalk the streets and wingbeats of distant angels sound against the sky.

But she is not without allies: twelve-year-old Will Parry, fleeing for his life after taking another's, has also stumbled into this strange new realm.

On a perilous journey from world to world, Lyra and Will uncover a deadly secret: an object of extraordinary and devastating power.